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ABSTRACT

Geography skills for elementary and secondary grades are outlined in this teacher's guide. The teaching and learning of geography skills is a developmental process. Once introduced and understood, skills must be used repeatedly and in different situations if they are to become part of the students' equipment for learning. A planned program for skill building and learning is needed to help students transfer these skills into customary behavior in our modern society. The map skills outlined focus on direction, scale, location, symbols, and comparison and inference. Skills are outlined for individual grades at the elementary level and as a whole at the secondary level. (RM)

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This listing of geography skills was developed by a team of teachers in the Yakima School District coordinated by Mona Stacy, former Curriculum Specialist.

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BUILDING SEQUENTIAL GEOGRAPHY SKILLS, K-12

WHAT: The following geography skills are offered as suggestions for teaching. We hope that the teacher will use these sample skills in his/her own creative teaching--adding, deleting and giving uniqueness to the skills according to the needs of students.

WHY: The teaching and learning of geography skills is a developmental process. Once introduced and understood, skills must be used repeatedly and in different situations if they are to become part of the students' equipment for learning. A planned program for skill building and learning is needed to help the students transfer these skills into customary behavior in our modern society.

A NOTE TO THE READER

This identification of K-12 sequential geography skills was developed by Yakima School District #7 in 1979-1981 through the leadership of Mona Stacy, former Curriculum Specialist, Curriculum Development.

A number of school districts have included these skills in their curriculum development and implementation structures.

This effort was facilitated by a special grant from the Superintendent of Public Instruction. Please direct any questions to Larry Strickland, Supervisor, Social Studies, (206) 753-7389.

GEOGRAPHY SKILLS

Grade Kindergarten

DIRECTION

Correctly uses the following words dealing with direction: up-down, forward-backward.

SCALE

Accurately describes the size and relative positions of objects in his/her environment by using the following words: larger-smaller, taller-shorter, higher-lower.

LOCATION

Identifies the north and south poles on a world map and/or globe.

SYMBOLS

Recognizes the globe as a model of the earth.

Identifies by color land masses and water masses on a map and/or globe.

COMPARISON AND INFERENCE

Determines which land masses and which water masses seem larger and which seem smaller (compared to each other).

Determines that an island is a body of land surrounded by a large body of water.

GEOGRAPHY SKILLS

Grade 1

DIRECTION

Understands the difference between a map and a globe.

Shows on a globe that north is the direction toward the north pole and south is the direction toward the south pole.

Locates the four cardinal directions (N, S, E, W) within their environment by placing them correctly around the classroom.

SCALE

Accurately describes the distance of objects in his/her environment by using the following words: closer-farther, a long way off - a short way off.

LOCATION

Distinguishes between land masses and water masses on a world map or globe.

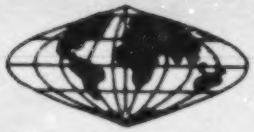
Locates the continent of North America, the U.S.A., Washington State and Yakima on a globe or world map.

Locate land and water masses a long way off from North America and a short way off from North America.

Locate our neighbors in North America (Canada, Mexico).

GEOGRAPHY SKILLS

Grade 1



SYMBOLS

Understands that real objects can be represented by pictures or symbols on a map.

Distinguishes between a map and a globe and understands that each symbolizes the world.

Defines the term "island" and understands the shape as a symbol.

COMPARISON AND INFERENCE

Determine which land masses and which water masses seem larger and which seem smaller (compared to each other).

Locate and compare a cutout outline of a land mass to the land mass on a globe.

GEOGRAPHY SKILLS

Grade 2

DIRECTION

Identifies the cardinal directions of N, S, E, W, on several maps, including a Yakima City Map.

Shows on a globe that up is the direction away from the surface and down is the direction toward the center of the earth.

Identifies the equator on a world map or globe.

Shows on a globe or world map that the equator divides the earth into a northern and southern hemisphere.

SCALE

Measure distance in the neighborhood by blocks from home to school, to the store, etc.

Recognizes that states are smaller than countries.

Explains that a globe is a model of earth, but sometimes a map can be more useful than a globe because it can show details and can be folded.

GEOGRAPHY SKILLS

Grade 2

LOCATION

Locates and identifies the United States on a world map or globe.

Locates Washington State on a map of the United States.

Locates specific states being studied on a map of the United States.

Locates key places on a large scale Yakima City Map, i.e., school, railroad, river.

Locates islands on a map or globe.

SYMBOLS

Recognizes that a symbol may be a drawing, a color, a pattern, a line, or a point.

Identifies the shapes of continents.

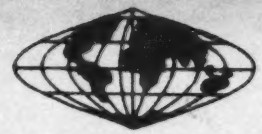
Understands that symbols may or may not look like that which they symbolize.

COMPARISON AND INFERENCE

Locates Yakima on two maps of different scales.

GEOGRAPHY SKILLS

Grade 3



DIRECTION

Locates North Pole, South Pole continents, and oceans on a world map and/or globe with reference to the equator (north of it or south of it).

Uses the north arrow on a map as a direction finder.

Constructs a simple school or neighborhood map which is properly oriented to a direction.

Tells the cardinal direction of one place from another.

SCALE

Recognizes the similarity between an area first introduced on a globe and the same area shown on a map.

Recognizes that cities, countries, continents are separate entities and are different in size.

Makes simple large scale maps of a familiar area, classroom, neighborhood, etc.

LOCATION

Constructs a simple school map locating specific places on it.

Locates and identifies the four big oceans: Atlantic, Pacific, Arctic, Indian and the seven continents: North America, South America, Asia, Australia, Africa, Antarctica and Europe.

Locates United States, Washington State and Yakima on a globe or world map.

Locates and distinguishes between states and cities on a map of the United States.

GEOGRAPHY SKILLS

Grade 3

SYMBOLS

Interprets legend and identifies capital cities on a population map.

Interprets basic map symbols.

Correlates shadings and color with elevation (mountains, mountain peaks, valley).

COMPARISON AND INFERENCE

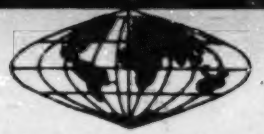
Infers from a map or maps why cities are located where they are.

Compares symbols on one map to those on another.

Relates temperature and climate to where people live and the way people live.

GEOGRAPHY SKILLS

Grade 4



DIRECTION

Designates specific areas of a country, state or city by accurately using the cardinal and/or inbetween directions.

Locates continents, island, etc., on a globe or world map with reference to whether they are in the eastern or western hemisphere.

Locates at least the northern and southern hemispheres.

Follows highways on a road map, north-south and east-west.

SCALE

Identifies the scale of miles on a map as a measuring device to estimate distances.

Recognizes that a globe shows a distance, size and shape more accurately than a map.

Understands that large-scale maps show more detail than small-scale maps.

LOCATION

Locates at least the Arctic and Antarctic Circles and the Equator on a world map or globe. (Extend to Tropic of Cancer, Tropic of Capricorn).

Locates and distinguishes between continents and countries on a world map or globe.

Defines and locates Temperate and Torrid Zones on a world map or globe.

GEOGRAPHY SKILLS

Grade 4

SYMBOLS

Interprets map legend for a particular purpose, i.e., amount of rainfall at a given location, population of cities.

Identifies and distinguishes between county, state and national boundary lines.

COMPARISON AND INFERENCE

Reads a variety of special purpose maps, recognizes that there are many kinds of maps for many uses, and selects the best map for the purpose at hand.

Realizes that Northern and Southern Hemisphere seasons are opposite.

Correlates temperature with latitude and elevation.

GEOGRAPHY SKILLS

Grade 5

DIRECTION

Indicates on a world map a country located in each of the four hemispheres.

Shows on a map that lines of latitude extend east and west: that lines of longitude extend north and south.

Selects two cities on a map and correctly indicates which cardinal or inbetween direction must be followed to get from one city to another.

Selects places at random and locates the region of country, state and city.

SCALE

Estimates distance between places by using the scale of miles on a map.

Recognizes that different maps have different scales.

Explains that lines of latitude are parallel and are sometimes called parallels.

Explains that lines of longitude are also called meridians.

GEOGRAPHY SKILLS

Grade 5

LOCATION

Locates and identifies on a globe or world map lines of latitude (parallel).

Locates places in the low, middle and high latitudes.

Defines and locates physical features such as bays, gulfs, deltas, etc.

Locates and distinguishes between natural and cultural features presented on a map, i.e, mountains, rivers, cities, highways.

SYMBOLS

Uses a map legend to identify map title, scale of miles and symbol meaning.

Gains specific information by interpreting meaning from geographical symbols, i.e., physical, political, cultural.

Develops the habit of interpreting the map legend before trying to read the map.

COMPARISON AND INFERENCE

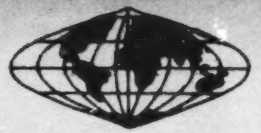
Interprets a map legend and describes a specific area shown on the map.

Uses the title and general content of a map to determine its purpose.

Explain the relationship of the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn to the sun's rays on earth (relate to seasons).

GEOGRAPHY SKILLS

Grade 6



DIRECTION

Explains that lines of latitude extend east and west but measure distance north and south.

Explains that lines of longitude run north and south but measure distance east and west.

Indicates on a world map a city located in each of the four hemispheres.

Learns that a compass is used for showing and determining direction.

SCALE

Develops the habit of checking the scale on all maps used.

Estimates North-South distances on a globe or map using latitude.

Realizes that all flat maps distort part of the earth they show; the larger the surface area, the greater the distortion.

LOCATION

Locates places on a globe or world map when given their latitude and longitude.

Gives the appropriate latitude and longitude of specific locations on a map or globe.

Locates and identifies major physical features of the world on a world map or globe, i.e., continents, oceans, peninsulas, gulfs, mountain ranges, etc.

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GEOGRAPHY SKILLS

Grade 6

LOCATION (Continued)

Identifies the time zones of the United States and relates them to longitude.

Uses the number and letter key for locating places on a state highway map.

SYMBOLS

Correlates, on a physical map, contour with elevation.

Correctly interepretes the colors, lines, shadings, and symbols on maps he/she is expected to use.

Recognizes the difference between political, physical and special purpose maps.

Uses the skill of interpreting map legends before reading the map.

COMPARISON AND INFERENCE

Identifies the same location on different map projections.

Consults two or more maps to gather information about the same area.

Relates temperature and climate to the way people live.

Uses maps and globes to locate and explain geographic setting of historical and current events.

Identifies occupations that require the use of maps.

GEOGRAPHY SKILLS

Grade Secondary
(Grades 7 - 12)

DIRECTION

REVIEW AND MAINTAIN GEOGRAPHY SKILLS INTRODUCED IN THE INTERMEDIATE GRADES.

Realizes that north is not always at the top of a map by correctly indicating north as the center of a North Polar projection map.

Knows that lines of longitude are also called Great Circles.

Uses compass to determine direction of another point visible to the student.

Review parallels.

SCALE

REVIEW AND MAINTAIN GEOGRAPHY SKILLS INTRODUCED IN THE INTERMEDIATE GRADES.

Identifies directions and determines distances using scale-miles in order to trace routes on a globe or map.

Realizes that lines of longitude are equal distance apart at the equator and that this distance diminishes as one moves toward the poles.

Realizes that large scale maps show more detail than small scale maps.

GEOGRAPHY SKILLS

Grade Secondary
(Grades 7 - 12)

LOCATION

REVIEW AND MAINTAIN THE GEOGRAPHY SKILLS INTRODUCED AT THE INTERMEDIATE GRADE LEVEL.

Locates time zones of the eastern or western hemisphere and relates them to longitude.

Understands the reason for the International Date Line and accurately computes time problems of international travel.

Develops a visual image of major countries, land forms, and other map patterns studied, indicated by a sketch of the area.

Identifies specific locations on a world map or globe appropriate to a unit of study.

Understands the significance of relative location as it has affected national policies.

Use coordinates of latitude and longitude to locate a point on the globe or on a map.

SYMBOLS

REVIEW AND MAINTAIN THE GEOGRAPHY SKILLS INTRODUCED AT THE INTERMEDIATE GRADE LEVEL.

Correctly interprets dots, lines, colors, shadings and symbols on maps he/she is expected to use.

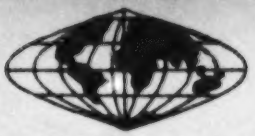
Recognizes the difference between political, physical and special purpose maps and chooses them for appropriate use.

Correctly interprets a variety of maps for appropriate use: rainfall, population, land use, natural vegetation, etc.

Studies color contour maps, relief maps and air photo maps to interpret the nature of the area shown.

GEOGRAPHY SKILLS

Grade Secondary (Grades 7 - 12)



COMPARISON AND INFERENCE

REVIEW AND MAINTAIN THE GEOGRAPHY SKILLS INTRODUCED AT THE INTERMEDIATE GRADE LEVEL.

Most basic geography skills have been introduced to students during the elementary grades. It is important to provide students with the opportunity to maintain these skills through application.

Recognizes that there are many kinds of maps for many uses, and learn to choose the best map for the purpose at hand.

Reads a variety of special-purpose maps and draw inferences on the basis of data obtained from them and from other sources

Understands the differences in different map projections and recognizes the distortions involved in any representation of the earth other than the globe.

Recognizes specific climatic regions and their causes: arctic, tropic, middle latitudes, low latitudes, and high latitudes.

Compares maps published on different dates and notes differences in population, industries, etc.

Explains why cities located at the same latitude have such a variety of climates (Paris - Seattle 49^{o}).

Determines a country's trade after study of maps, i.e., showing transportation routes, manufacturing areas, forests, grazing areas, etc.

Determines the relationship of geographic features and population trends.

Compares the relationship of climatic regions and geographic features of a country to its political, cultural, socio/economic development.

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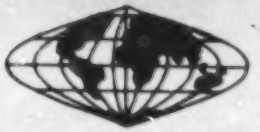
GEOGRAPHY SKILLS

Grade Secondary
(Grades 7 - 12)



COMPARISON AND INFERENCE (Continued)

Infers man's activities or way of living in a particular geographic location after a study of appropriate maps.

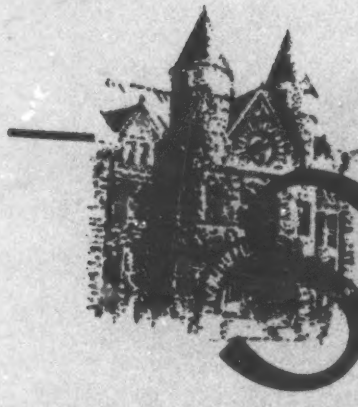
Learns to formulate generalizations and conclusions about a specific area in studying its geographical characteristics.

Uses maps and globes to locate geographic settings of historical and current events assisting in establishing appropriate interpretation of the event.

Applies problem-solving and critical-thinking skills to social issues.

Uses problem-solving techniques in meeting personal and societal problems.

Recognizes the historical significance of the oceans in separating countries of the world and how that impact has lessened with improved transportation.



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